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SANITATION SERVICES UNDERGO REORGANIZATION

The intensive building program and the various projects for the reforestation of the USSR have done much to change local climatic conditions in various parts of the USSR. These changes have made great demands on the Soviet State Sanitation Inspection Service. New water reservoirs have increased insect control problems, new factories have raised problems of industrial waste control, and new cities have raised the problem of proper sewage disposal.

In recent years the Soviet state heaped such a preponderance of work on the State Sanitation Inspection that it ceased to function effectively. Ordinary sanitary inspection took up so much time that there was no opportunity to conduct an extensive antiepidemiological program. This condition has been improved.

Today, the State Sanitation Inspection Service no longer has to deal with numerous matters which were incidental to sanitation and antiepidemiological work. Its primary assignments are: (1) to guarantee the sanitary condition of air, water reservoirs, and soil, (2) supervise the construction of new communities and factories so as to guarantee compliance with established sanitary standards, (3) supervise the food industries, and (4) supervise the medical industries.

Much of the difficulties experienced by the State Sanitation Inspection Service arose because its representatives on various governmental and political commissions did not have sufficient power. Today a better organization and greater weight of authority characterizes the administrative make-up of the State Sanitation Inspection Service.

The All-Union Sanitation Inspection Service is directed by the chief, State Sanitation Inspection Service USSR, who is, at the same time, a Deputy Minister of Public Health USSR. The chief is responsible for presenting essential legislative problems before the Council of Ministers USSR.

This same organization prevails in the union republics where the chief of the Sanitation Inspection Service is also a Deputy Minister of Public Health RSFSR. Each kray, rayon, or oblast has a Chief State Sanitation Inspector who is at the same time

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a Deputy Chief of the kray, rayon or oblast public-health department. An authorized and fully empowered representative of the All-Union Sanitation Inspection Service will be present at all large-scale building projects. He will have final authority in all matters dealing with sanitation during the designing of the project, during its actual construction, and even for some time after the project is completed and in use.

The organization of each kray, rayon, or oblast sanitation service should have a community specialist, industrial hygienist, water hygienist, food hygienist, and hygienic specialists for schools.

The sanitation inspectors will have considerable authority with respect to matters of sanitation and hygiene, including the power to stop construction of any project until all sanitation regulations have been complied with. They have the right to levy fines, and will base their judgment in all matters only on the data submitted to them by the institutes and laboratories of the Sanitation Inspection Service. However, measures are being taken to assure a large selection of highly qualified research facilities.

Other organizational changes have resulted in greater authority for the decrees of the Sanitation and Antiepidemiological Service. The coordinator of anti-epidemiological work will be the chief surgeon of a sanitation and antiepidemiological station. The general organization of the stations has been tightened with resultant increase in the efficiency of their performance. Much still remains to be done, but the optimistic results obtained by improving the organization of the All-Union Sanitation Inspection Service will undoubtedly bring about similar organizational improvements in the Sanitation-Antiepidemiological Service. -- Prof T. Boldyrev

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